



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY  
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ALEXANDRIA:  
SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 6, 1858.

LORD BRUGHAM, since his Address at the inauguration of the statue of Sir Isaac Newton, has delivered a Lecture on Popular Literature, at Birmingham, England, and excites much attention. The London Times speaking of the production, says, "if this oration was prepared, how wonderful must be the memory which at Lord Brugham's advanced age could acquire and retain it for delivery; if, as is more probable, it was the produce of only a little previous thought, how efficient must be the mind which responds so promptly to such prodigious draughts!"

Lord Brugham gives a gratifying account of the large circulation in Great Britain, of cheap popular periodicals, designed to amuse and instruct, and of the daily increasing interest which the laboring classes take in good reading; and states that these periodicals have, to a considerable extent, supplanted the popular degrading literature that previously existed. Speaking on this subject, the Boston Advertiser asks, "if this has been accomplished in England, may not something of the same kind be done here? If wise men there, generally interested in social phenomena, have been able, by means of system and hearty sympathetic exertions in establishing a popular literature, to drive out from popular favor the worthless, but formerly patronized, trashy tales, may not something of the same kind be done here? May not the miserable journals that now flatter their tales of burlesque and crime before the public, be met substantially upon their own ground, and defeated by a kind of literature which will have elements of equal interest, and at the same time will tend to elevate and improve the character; or, at any rate, will not tend to debase it?"

A strong and well prepared article appears in the Richmond Enquirer, written by a Democrat of Alabama, in favor of ignoring old, frivolous issues—accepting those tendered now by the Black Republicans, for trial and contest—endorsing none of the factious—making a new platform at the Charleston Convention, more favorable to Southern rights—declaring that the present administration has been patriotic, but in respect to its policy, in many things, neither condemning nor approving it—and, finally, calling upon HENRY A. WISE—"Henry of Navarre" to be the standard bearer of the party, to lead it to victory!

The Richmond Enquirer replies with vigor and spirit to the Union's late criticism on Gov. Wise's letter to the Illinois Democracy—defends the Governor—maintains his consistency in the Kansas matter—calls the Union a "disorganizing newspaper"—and warns that party, that if not content with the recent lesson it has received in Illinois, it will persist in embroiling itself with Virginia Democrats, it will be made to howl before the battle is over!

The "Republican" presses are shouting in Massachusetts, and making a great noise over the recent election in that State. They are just where they were before—with our hope that if all the conservative men in the State will unite to revive and reorganize the Whig party, the Republicans can be successfully opposed.

It is gratifying to believe, according to the New York papers, that Mr. Sumner's recent speeches in that State, so far from benefiting, injured the strength of the "Republican" party. But for these speeches, it is said, the Republican majority would have been much greater than it is.

A locomotive was lately driven on the Canada Grand Trunk Railroad, on a dark and stormy night, at the rate of fifty miles an hour. On the train propelled was Gen. Williams, the hero of Kare, for whose accommodation the trip was made at this rapid speed.

The Richmond Enquirer still contends that Mr. Letcher cannot be nominated on the first ballot, and, therefore, cannot be nominated at all!

Mr. O. P. Baldwin, a distinguished lecturer, is to commence a course of lectures in Warrenton, Va., on the fourth Monday in this month.

We copy from the Union what may be called the Administration view of the recent elections. The article is suggestive on many accounts.

Jerome N. Bonaparte, Jr., of the French army, arrived at New York in the steamship Fulton.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—It will be recollected that several months ago, the Government of Great Britain suggested, in general terms, that some mode ought to be adopted for verifying the nationality of vessels, which could be mutually used by both parties without offense to either. But the distinct form of the proposition has not been made, nor is it known what arrangement Her Majesty's Government will recommend.

It is not, however, considered to be necessary for the United States to take the initiative in this matter, as the law of nations is acknowledged by Great Britain to mean that for which our Government has always contended, and this to the latter is satisfactory. If England desires any modification of it, her proposition will, of course, be entitled to consideration.

The substance of the despatch of Lord Napier to the State Department is represented to be, in effect, that the Nicaragua government will avail itself of the aid of the British fleet to prevent the landing of filibusters. Our government considers itself able to enforce the neutrality laws. Should, therefore, the neutrality laws fall into the hands of the British, and thus be prevented from carrying out their designs, it would prove an occurrence much to be deplored, as it would produce an unpleasant state of feeling against the British government.

## News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

The Paris journals reiterate the report of an insurrection in Serbia, and intimate that Austria is disposed to intervene for the interests of Europe. The Greek Christians in Bosnia who have been committing terrible outrages on the Mussulman population have the belief that they have the support of France and Russia in the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire, and the formation of a Greek State at Constantinople.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has adopted a convention by which the Valley de Dappes is sold to France for 350,000 francs. For about forty years the valley has been neither French nor Swiss, and on a recent occasion the police of the two countries were not able to lay hold of a malefactor who, having taken refuge in the centre of the valley, invoked by turn the quality of French and Swiss citizen to suit his purpose.

At New York, on the 2d instant, a steam canal boat arrived from Buffalo, with a cargo of 152 tons on board and a boat in tow carrying 178 tons. She is the S. Muel B. Raggle, and left Buffalo on the 20th of October, thus making the trip in fifteen days. Her length is thirty-seven feet, with a width of seventeen and a half feet, and a similar depth from keel to top deck, of which she has two. She averages three miles an hour running time, and consumes about three tons of coal a day.

A day or two since the captain and part of the crew of the British bark Claude, waterlogged at sea on the 29th ult., were brought into New York, by Capt. Johnston, of the American ship Isaac Bell. The master of the Claude, the British vessel is Chesell, and in a letter to the Courier and Enquirer, he describes in warm terms the humane and gallant conduct of Capt. Johnston in saving him and five others from impending death. His wife died before they were rescued.

The Slaveholders' Convention of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, now in session at Cambridge, Md., recommend the holding of a general State Convention in Baltimore, in June next, for the purpose of devising some means of remedying the evils under which they labor, and the passage of laws to render the free negro population a producing class. A committee was appointed, comprising a number of the influential men in that section of the State, to draft an address to the people on the subject.

On Thursday last, the dwelling house of Mr. Miller, in Orange county, N. J., was destroyed by fire, with all its contents, including \$400 in money, all the work of rats. The fire originated in a closet, in which were a quantity of matches strewn around, and it is supposed they were ignited by the rats running over them. This is the second fire in that county within the last three weeks from the same cause.

The Message of the Governor of Georgia, is quite an ultra anti-bank document. The Governor recommends the prohibition of the circulation of bank bills of a denomination under ten or twenty dollars. He also advises the adoption of a State sub-treasury.—The whole message is devoted exclusively to State affairs.

A young man has just returned home who was believed to have been lost in the wrecked bark Wade, of New Bedford, ten years ago. For a long while his father had been conversing with him in the spirit land, the last message through a medium, being to the effect that "he was among the saints, and a crown of glory was awaiting his father!"

The suit involving the title of the South-east Railroad Company to the valuable wharf property at City Point, has been decided in favor of the Company by the Court of Appeals. The Ritchie suit against the Company has been compromised for \$1,500.

Adjutant General Cooper calls attention to a former order requiring officers of the army arriving at the seat of Government to report at his office, and during their sojourn at Washington to wear a prescribed dress, which regulation has not hitherto been strictly observed.

The Democracy in New York, on Tuesday, adopted a distinctive ticket, the label on the back being printed upon a dark ground.—The object of course was to drill the party and detect any man who did not vote the regular ticket.

Cumberland, Md., last Thursday, Thomas Walls, charged with killing Harrison King, at Odenton, on the 24th of May last, was found guilty of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to confinement in the Penitentiary for a period of 8 years and 6 months.

Signals have been received from Trinity Bay at Valentin, by Daniel's battery, which were very distinct, and orders were at once given to send Daniel's battery at Valentin, but nothing further had yet developed.

The Royal Mail steamship Europa, has sailed from Boston, with fifty-nine passengers for Liverpool, and ten for Halifax.—She took out only \$5,000 in specie.

Hon. Mr. Clemens, of Va., wounded in the late duel, is said to be still in a very critical condition.

W. L. Clark has been re-elected president of the Winchester and Potomac railroad.

At New Orleans, Nov. 4, R. H. Chilton, cotton broker, committed suicide.

The Next Congress.

According to the Washington States, there have been, so far, 104 republicans and 47 democrats elected to the next House of Representatives. The States yet to elect are Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, which elect eighty-six members. In the present House they stand as follows:

Dem. Rep. Am.  
Add already elected. 67 104  
113 111 12

Negro Doctor.

The latest Paris sensation is a negro doctor. He lives sumptuously, drives an ostentatious carriage, has pages in waiting at his magnificent rooms, and is evincing in his manner and business arrangements. He mixes medicine with physic, and prepares his own medicines. He is beset by patients to the highest walks of life—dukes, marquises, and affluent commoners through his ante-chambers.

## The Late Election.

[From the Washington Union.]

We have published pretty full reports of the elections of Tuesday last. Our readers will have learned from them the general fact that the democratic party has sustained important losses in all the States where the elections have been held, except only in the State in which its leaders have denounced its action as fraudulent and in violation of its faith and its principles. With a few exceptions the party has been beaten wherever, in these States, its candidates did not endorse the action of the black republican party in Congress last winter, and condemn that of the good and true democrats in that body.

If the democratic party has triumphed in Illinois, it has been at its own expense, in consideration of joining in the black-republican clamor against the "Lecompton fraud and swindle." It is a triumph barren and ignominious; it is a triumph over which the black-republicans have reason to exult, and to exult more than the good and true democracy. The platform of the party in Illinois, on the great slavery question, in the canvass just ended, differs but little from the platform of 1848. It was the leading tenet of the Buffalo platform that Congress might prohibit slavery in the Territories, but that the citizens of half the Union, is the leading tenet of the Illinois platform that the subordinate agent of Congress, the territorial legislature, may do this thing—in the manner most becoming an underlying and tool, by indirection, bad faith, and perjury.

We repeat, that a victory, won upon a charge of fraud and delinquency of principle against the Democracy—a victory won upon a platform of doctrines differing but a shade from the odious platform of Buffalo, is not a victory over which we can rejoice, or from which we can expect any advantage to labor.

It is notorious in Illinois that an anti-Lecompton majority in the legislature just elected, is not *per se* a Douglas majority. In a letter from a correspondent who had just traversed the whole State, written on the 1st inst., the day before the election, he sets forth the true state of the case: "I have just returned from a trip through the State. I find that there are hosts of good democrats who will vote for Douglas candidates, but who are not in the ranks of the Union. The 'Lecompton' election returns will not therefore give a very good indication of his strength. It was the impression among leading democrats at Springfield that Douglas will not, under any circumstances be returned, even though his friends be in apparent majority in the legislature. They believe that among them will be found a sufficient number of members elected to beat Lincoln who will refuse to vote for Douglas, and thus prevent the election of either."

The returns which have reached us are not sufficiently definite or positive to admit of an accurate and certain estimate of the strength of the anti-Lecompton majority in the House of Representatives. There is no doubt that the House is lost by large odds, if we count as of the party only those who support the national platform and endorse the action of Congress last winter on the Kansas question. The only doubt seems to be, whether there is a majority over the black republicans and the Americans who act with them, counting with the democracy those who denounce its action last winter, as a fraud, and subscribe to the Illinois platform. We fear there will be a majority of the opposition, even if we include such men as Thomas L. Harris, of Illinois, and Horace C. Clark, of New York. At all events, the balance is so even that it is impossible in the present state of the returns to reach a satisfactory conclusion even on this question.

The question, however, is of little practical importance; for if the democracy shall have control of the House only by the aid of such democrats as the gentlemen we have mentioned, its tenure will be a slender and uncertain one indeed.

## The State Fair at Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, Nov. 3.—This morning opened gloomily enough for all well wishers to the Agricultural Fair. The rain, which had visited us slightly yesterday, poured down in torrents last night, and the managers of the exhibition turned to their duties in their beds as they lay in their beds and continued to rain. About 11 o'clock today, however, the clouds dispersed, the sun shone out brilliantly, and at 1 o'clock on the grounds afforded a grateful shade from its rays instead of a shelter from the rain. Even before the sky cleared, large numbers of vehicles were laden with passengers on the road out and when it did clear, the whole city seemed to turn out en masse; the ladies lining the now dry and pleasant path to the ground with their brilliant dresses.

The number of visitors to-day is of course largely increased, as it is in fact the real "opening" of the exhibition. Some enthusiastic persons estimated the number of persons on the ground at one time at 5,000, and taking 1000 off for the enthusiasm, you will have the right number. There are over 2,000 visitors from North Carolina, and the counties south of this. The train yesterday evening on the Southern Railroad brought 500. The train from Richmond this morning brought about 150 persons. It is needless to add that the scene in the enclosure was very interesting. There is nothing necessary to be noticed which was not mentioned yesterday. The day was chiefly occupied in testing horses.

Among the visitors present are James C. Bruce, President Union Agricultural Society, Hon. Willoughby Newton, of Westmoreland county, Va., Hon. E. Edwards, of Halifax, and Edmund Ruffin of Hanover.

There has not yet been a quorum for the State Agricultural Society; the Farmers' Assembly, however, had a very interesting "talk" last night.

The premiums will be returned by the Judges to the Secretary of the State Society to-morrow, and will be read out from the stand on Friday, the last day of the exhibition.

Ex President Tyler will be here on Friday, and deliver the valedictory address.

A Cure for Scrofula.

The Cincinnati Commercial publishes the following communication from Nicholas Lingworth, the great wine manufacturer of that city: "All the papers I had, giving the cure for scrofula, have been distributed to persons sending for the remedy. I have never heard of a case where it did not effect a speedy cure, and in no case does it have any injurious results, which it has so frequently effected perfect cures. Put one ounce of aquafortis in a bowl or saucer; drop in two copper cents; it will effervesce; leave the cents in; when the effervescence ceases, add two ounces of strong vinegar. The fluid will be a dark green color. It should and will smart. If too severe put in a little rain water. Apply it to the sore, morning and evening, by a soft brush or rag. Before applying it wash the sore with water."

Gen. Ward, of Georgia.

We stated yesterday that this gentleman had been tendered the mission to China, according to a rumor rife in this city. We have since ascertained that this is not so. Gen. Ward, of Georgia, who was the President of the Cincinnati Democratic National Convention, has been tendered the position of U. S. Minister to Turin, made vacant by the resignation of Mr. John M. Daniel, of Virginia, the former editor of the Richmond Examiner.—*Wash. Star.*

## Sermons in Falling Stones.

We suppose that the melancholy accident which occasioned the death of Samuel Cotton in Franklin street, on Tuesday last, will teach architects and builders to be more careful with their coping-stones hereafter.—We had supposed, indeed, that the principle of mechanics whose truth was thus forcibly illustrated, was well-known even to ordinary minds before. Here was a heavy stone, four feet eight inches in width, which was expected to maintain itself upon the top of the wall, while two feet six inches (more than half the width) projected over the street.—It is true that in recognition of the impossibility which attempted this mechanical impossibility, iron clamps were used to fasten the massive mass in its place; but this contrivance, as the event unhappily proved, was altogether insufficient. The clamps simply served to involve a greater mass in the fall which proved fatal to human life.

The simple principle that less than half of the stone must project beyond the wall, that the centre of gravity may fall within the base of the structure, will probably be recognized in all the coping-stones put up in Boston for a half-century to come, at least.—And so the sad accident of last Tuesday may beneficially save an immense risk of greater destruction of life that might have occurred in some more unfortunate result from the same cause at some time hereafter.

But we are to be content with this falling result of the lesson taught by this falling stone. Several of the witnesses before the coroner's jury testified in substance that less pains was taken now than formerly about such things—that copings now are projected very generally more boldly than used to be thought proper; in short that modern building rejects, in this respect, some even of the simplest principles of the art as it was practiced in former times. To be forced to pass under a beeting precipice—with a crowning rock hanging directly over one's head—has been supposed to be a rare occurrence in actual life, a thing to be described with proper adjectives and exclamations of horror in avowed romances and travellers' narratives.

Are copings the only feature of buildings in which we have departed from the safe rules of former times? We fear not.—When old houses are pulled down, as they so often are, it is not unusual to hear loud expressions of the thick walls, the huge beams and rafters, the numerous chimneys, braces and supports of former days. But the laugh may be turned against us, when we see our modern structures falling to pieces; the contents of attics precipitated to the street, and the walls of new buildings actually supported in their places by shores stretched across the streets.—*Boston Ad.*

## American Iron.

We had no idea, until we saw the statistics in the last number of the American Railroad Journal, that our capacity for manufacturing rails in this country was so great.—What is better still, it is increasing every year; notwithstanding the depression in the iron business, and in almost every other branch of industry. In 1854, we manufactured in this country, one hundred and eighty thousand tons of rail, and in 1857, we had carried the quantity up to very near two hundred thousand tons. In those three years, not less than seven new iron mills, for manufacturing rails, were established in the United States, three of which were in the South.

But, we are too sorry to say, the disproportion between the two sections in this matter, is entirely too great. There are just twenty rail mills in all, in the Union, of which the South has only four. One of these is in Maryland, one in Virginia, (at Wheeling), one in Kentucky, and one in Georgia. The mill in Georgia, situated at Atlanta, is, however, the third one in capacity to all of them. In 1857, it turned out eighteen thousand tons of rail. The Montour works, at Danville, Pennsylvania, which turned out twenty-two thousand tons—and the Pottsville works, in the same State, which turned out eighteen thousand six hundred—are the only two which exceeded the capacity of the works at Atlanta.

Most of these rail mills are, of course, situated in Pennsylvania, where iron ore and coal are both so abundant and cheap. We find, however, that Boston has one—Troy, New York, one—Trenton, New Jersey one—Cleveland, Ohio, two—and Detroit, Michigan, one. The remainder of those situated in the North, are all in Pennsylvania.

The question may well be asked, if Boston and Detroit can carry on rail-making, why may not the cities of Virginia do the same thing?—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

## Virtue of Milk.

It is a most perfect diet. Nothing like it—it contains curd, which is necessary for the development and formation of muscle—butter for the production of an adequate supply of fat; sugar to feed the respiration, and the richly acid warmth to the body; the phosphates of lime and magnesia, the proteid of iron, the chlorides of potassium and soda, with the free soda required to give solidity and strength to the bone together with the saline particles so essentially necessary for other parts of the body. It contains lacteal acid, or the acid of milk, which chemists inform us is the acid of the gastric juice, the requisite for the proper dissolving of our food in the stomach. It is, therefore, obvious that milk should be chemically correct in all its constituents, and should not be neutralized by adulteration. "It is," Dr. Pratt properly states, "the true type of food." How necessary, therefore, it is that should be pure; otherwise this wonderful and wise provision of providence would be a curse rather than a blessing.

## United States Army.

The present military force of the United States consists of nineteen regiments of the line, composed of the following corps: Five regiments of cavalry, four regiments of artillery, ten of infantry, making a grand aggregate of thirteen thousand, rank and file, of all arms. This little army covers an area of over two millions of square miles, being equal to the area of all Europe. There are eleven hundred medical officers, eight hundred and fifty of whom graduated at the Military Academy, and two hundred and fifty civil appointments. The nature of these officers is as follows: Born in the United States 1,000, Ireland 14, France 8, England 3, Germany 3, Scotland 2, Austria 1, Italy 1, Poland 1, Spain 1, Cuba 1, Turkey 1, at sea 3. The militia force of the United States is computed at 5,000,000 effective men.

A Shocking Affair.

On Wednesday evening of last week, at about half-past six o'clock, a ruffian entered the dwelling of Mr. John Price, at Vincennes, Indiana, and asked for something to eat. Mrs. P. instructed a young hired man to furnish him his supper, and just as he turned to prepare the same, the man drew a hatchet which he had concealed on his person, and then made a spring at Mrs. P., but she ran through the house into the street, and gave the alarm. The perpetrator of the deed made good his escape, and has not since been heard of. His victim is still alive, but it is feared she cannot survive her dreadful injuries.

A Lucky Sale.

Pennsylvania has six full foreign missions.—Dallas to England, Mr. Reed to China, Mr. Chandler to Naples, Mr. Booklew to Ecuador, Mr. Clay to Lima, and J. Glancy Jones to Austria. She has, also, a number of consuls.

## Mr. Albert Smith at Hong Kong.

H. H. KONG, August 22.—"Here we are all safe and sound among them at last, surrounded by junk and pigails, and noble ladies and gentlemen. I have bought the enclosed pictures from an splendid merchant who has come off to the side of the ship on three planks, by the aid of a broomstick. We left Singapore on the 23d ult. I was immensely delighted with it; it is quite a Chinese place. The shed shops are such rich places, they sell the most wonderful things in them,—toys and gods and lanterns, and very queer crockery. The fish they eat in the eating houses far surpasses that cooked at that old *trattoria* at Genoa. It consists for the most part, of rats, bats, snails, and hideous fish, dried in the most frightful attitudes. Some of the restaurateurs carry their cook shops about them on long poles, with the kitchen at one end and *saute-manger* at the other. These are celebrated for a soup made, I should think, from large caterpillars boiled in a thin gravy with onions. The barbers also carry their shops about and they shave, cut beards and syringe ears right in the middle of the street.

"A Chinese merchant asked me to dinner. I went, of course, and after dinner we sat for the theatre. They played a Chinese opera, with about 50 performers; there were several of the most, with tumbling and fighting in every scene. They only had one clarinet and two gongs in the orchestra, but when there was a cessation in the piece one fellow knocked two hollow bones together to show the audience they were to applaud.—The merchant lives in first rate style and has a wonderful garden. All the fruit trees are very small; there were pine like cabbages, and a quantity of large creepers, called monkey quips, because down the stalk there are regular bunches and tops filled with water; from which the monkeys refresh themselves in the woods. There were also among the livestock Cashmere goats, porcupines, kangaroos, Pekin pigs, and Brahmin bullocks, and in the jungle across the valley tigers and all sorts of novelties. I slept on shore that night, or rather I went to bed, but I could not sleep, as I missed the noise of the saw and the creaking of the timbers, and the bed was too short.

"The last night before we got to Hong Kong we had an entertainment, on board, and I was stage manager. We made a first-rate row of sails and flags, and the whole affair went off capitally. There are no hotels at Hong Kong, but a very nice club with some 500 members, and a very good library. I arrived, as it is very jolly. Today they held a Chinese *fe* in honor of their dead relations. They keep firing crackers all day in the streets and burn those long pastilles. I don't think they care much about their religion; they go into the temples to get cool, or sit down or go to sleep. The children are frightened at the gods, they are so hideous; they rear with terror when they are placed in front of them. The people walk about with their hats on, and whistle and smoke, and do what they like, the merchant selling gilt paper and pastilles sit round the sides, and sometimes they beat a gong to attract attention. Nothing that I can write now can give you the least idea of this wonderful place; I see every hour how very laudible Cook's descriptions were."

## Railroads and the Press.

A number of our railroad companies have recently held a series of conventions for the purpose of aiding their mutual interests.—Among their proceedings the abolition of the "direct" system has assumed a great prominence. There is no doubt that this system has been greatly abused, but the railroad directors appear to give their attention particularly to cutting off the "free pass" of the press, while they overlook entirely the parties by whom the abuses of the dead head system have been especially inaugurated. We have always entertained the opinion that free passes were not only actually more expensive to the conductors of newspapers than the cost of tickets for all their travelling, but in a great measure they impeded the free circulation of the press in regard to railway companies. It would perhaps be more economical for publishers and more useful to the public, if editors and reporters would pay their fares whenever they travel upon railroads, and exact payment for all notices which they publish in regard to railroad matters. There is no interest in the country that from beginning to end is so much dependent upon the aid of the press as that of railroads. Hardly one of the roads whose iron tracks now permeate the Union could have been built without the co-operation and influence and actual aid of the newspapers in urging its necessity and advantage to the people. And after their completion they are continually under obligation to the press for an infinite variety of favors. Some of our roads in this locality have within the past three months earned thousands of dollars from passenger travel, that would have been driven from them if the Baltimore papers had published and circulated the minor notices which have occurred upon them.—*Charleston Free Press.*

## Explosion of a Ceramic Chimney.

A few years have served to bring into extensive use for burial purposes the now common metallic ceramic coffins, especially when it is desirable or necessary to delay the interment. When first introduced it was the practice to exhaust the air in these cases after the body had been put in, to secure them fully, it was said against charge by contact with the atmosphere. For various reasons this practice has fallen into disuse, the only precautions now taken being to completely cool the remains before sealing up the case. From some neglect in this latter respect a circumstance took place last night, which, originating here, is worth relating. The body of an adult, who had suddenly died, was placed in a ceramic coffin, and was sealed up as usual. The coffin was placed in a hearse, and was being driven to a neighboring State. The conveyance for half a day's ride was by railroad, and then by wagon for thirty miles. The day was warm and the road rough, and much motion was doubtless given to the remains. The persons in charge stopped for a brief rest at a tavern, and were in the house when they, as well as all in the vicinity, were startled by a very loud report, and it was found that the burial case had, by a rapid generation of gas, exploded, and a shattering explosion blowing out the heavy French glass face plate, which it shattered into a thousand pieces. Nothing could be done but to seek a hasty interment in the vicinity, and await the coming of cold weather to allow the removal of the remains to their destined place of burial.—*Chicago Press.*

## A Notorious Incident.

Last week, a family arrived at New Orleans from England, in a packet-ship, and two young girls, each aged about 20, strolled through the streets of the city. One of the women became ill, and so faint and overcome that she had to lay down upon a bale of hay. While her female companion remained with her, a friend was sent down to the ship to notify her family of the occurrence. The unfortunate girl was not long compelled to remain in the situation before her family sent up for her, yet in that short time no less than five different companies of charitable gentlemen descended her position and offered to remove her at once in a carriage to where she would have treatment. Four different members of the H. Ward Association found out the sufferer, and offered to have her removed to the Maison de Sante, and the Rev. Mr. Reed actually engaged a conveyance to take her to the infirmary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

## Portable Theatres for the Drawing Room.

PARIS, October 7.—It is already announced that the coming season will be even more than usually gay, and preparations on an extensive scale are being made. Private theatres will be still more in vogue than last winter, if we may judge by the large number of orders already received by the inventor of the portable theatre, that has taken the place of the screen, formerly made the representative of all sorts of scenery in the drawing room. The little theatre des salons is anything that suits the occasion, a palace, a cottage, a gipsy camp, a church, a boudoir, or a garden; it has its stage, its side scenes, its prompter's box, its drop curtain. To all these advantages it adds that of being packable, by means of the withdrawal of three or four screws, in five minutes, if the room is needed for a dance after the play is over, nor does it take longer to put up than to take down. The whole thing may be had for the trifling sum of 500fr., and those who have hitherto refrained from having private theatres, on account of the difficulty in getting them up without scenery, may now indulge their taste freely. Some two hundred of these useful contrivances have already been ordered.

## Affairs in Mexico.

The position of Mexico is becoming daily more complicated and more critical, and those who have the deepest interest in studying the course of events there hardly know what to look for, or even what to hope. A few weeks since the constitutional party was confident of obtaining an early triumph. Now the defeat of Vidaurri destroys that hope, and renders possible the fall of Vera Cruz. This result would by no means restore peace to the country. It would only prolong the conflict that already shows signs of degenerating into a war of races, as will be seen by the letters from several of our correspondents.

But there are graver events gathering round the expiring nationality of Mexico than those which appertain only to her own internal condition. Several foreign governments have just claims upon her for the payment of their citizens; conventions for partial payments have been made with several of the European Powers, and their stipulations broken; the foreign holders of Mexican bonds are clamoring for protection to their own authorities; and the course towards foreign residents of each of the parties claiming to be the legitimate government of the country, has been a violation of acknowledged international obligations. While Zolozaga and Miram have committed numerous outrages upon Americans and English, Garza and other constitutionalists have behaved in the same manner towards the Spaniards. In most instances these attacks have been directed against the merchants, because this is the class which usually possesses the most ready cash, and this is the only resource of the combatants to supply the exhausted revenue. This state of things is likely to bring about some action on the part of foreign governments.—*N. Y. Herald.*

## Wholesale Indictments in New York.

The Grand Jury of the Oyer and Terminer has found true bills against sixty-one members of the Common Council, for misdemeanor in violating the city charter in the matter of the Catholic Orphan Asylum grant. The case of the District Attorney was brought yesterday afternoon by the City Fathers, some of whom considered the action of the Grand Jury as a good joke, while others were heaping imprecations on the head of the District Attorney. The case was brought through the Board of Councilmen during an exciting contest on the street cleaning contract, no change being given for debate, and only when it reached the Board of Aldermen did its real character become apparent.—There it was discovered to be an electioneering dodge to get the Roman Catholic vote for Mayor Wood, who had just been re-nominated. The lease has never been executed, it having been declared unlawful by the Supreme Court, and the Comptroller refusing to sign the papers.

It is understood that the Grand Jury of the Oyer and Terminer have also indicted the following persons for an alleged violation of the charter and for conspiracy to defraud the public treasury: Joseph K. Taylor, (late Collector of Assessments, two indictments), Charles McNeal and Jacob F. Oakley (deputy Collectors of Assessments), Patrick Tracy, Wm. A. Doolley, and Terence Farley, a contractor.—*N. Y. Commercial.*

## Minerals of Virginia.

A permanent collection of the minerals of Virginia has been commenced at the Mechanics' Institute of this city, which promises to present a fair representation of our vast and various mineral wealth. The matter was not considered in time for the present fair, though we understand Mr. DeBow has deposited a respectable collection of our useful minerals, and has promised a large addition with his aid in making collections throughout the State, to place on display at more appropriate fairs such cabinet than the Mechanics' Institute, and others are better calculated to take care of it and help in building it up than our mechanics, since they are deeply and particularly interested in all that relates to both minerals and metals. We hope our professors and amateur geologists, and others interested in our mineral productions, will assist in making this collection truly worthy of our extensive State and immense and various mineral treasures.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

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